



Next Generation Internet (NGI)

More Lessons Learnt From Working with NGI0
Software Projects

The NGI Zero Initiative

- Support Free Software projects with funding and technical support from a consortium of various organizations.
- Approved software projects must have some potential to improve the internet as a platform in some way.





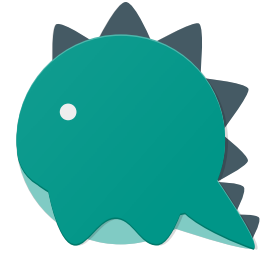
FSFE Involvement:

- Consortium member in the NGI Zero (NGI0) sub-group - where we provide **legal and licensing support** to around 500 Free Software projects funded by the initiative.



REUSE
SOFTWARE

<https://reuse.software/>



<https://ngi.eu/> - <https://nlnet.nl/project/>





Last Year's Lessons

- Need for more education of legal Free Software concepts themselves and their impact in the broader ecosystem
- Despite this, there has been a trend in the adoption of copyleft licenses over the last six years
- NGI funding cut - loss of €27 million for software freedom. We need sustainable, secure, and dedicated funding for NGI and Free Software solutions that help Europe to control its technology.



Lesson I

- Developers are more curious about non-free licenses that restrict the freedom to use.



Lesson I

For example:

- Is it possible to apply a license to my project that restricts the use of my code by:
 - users who would adopt it in military applications, or
 - companies that violate labour rights.
- Can I restrict use of the code by the government of XXXX?



Lesson I

- Hippocratic License
 - License features a list of ethical standards for the Licensee (based on standards in International Human Rights instruments)
 - Optional additional terms for other ethical standards, including divestment from fossil fuels, ecocide, and involvement with certain defined political actors.
- Do No Harm License
 - Similar ethical standards based in International Human Rights instruments
 - Additional restriction for use by gambling, tobacco, or other similarly addictive industries.



Lesson I

- These licenses are not Free Software licenses.
- Drawbacks
 - Cannot be realistically enforced
 - Lack of legal certainty



Lesson I

- Important to remember
 - The motivation behind such licenses is wanting to do good in the world.
 - Free Software licenses can do good, but they are not appropriate to be the tool to do ALL good.



Lesson II

- Among NGI-involved parties:
 - Increased awareness for decentralized, non-monopolized, European, Free Software alternatives to internet infrastructure.



Lesson II

- In NGI circles among developers and decision makers within the large NGI project,
 - alternatives to American Big Tech necessary considering changes in international political order in the past 12 months
 - need to fast track and support software projects that provide such alternatives to essential digital infrastructure



Lesson III

- NGI funding cut - loss of €27 million for software freedom.

We need **sustainable, secure, and dedicated funding** for NGI and Free Software solutions that help Europe to control its technology.



<https://my.fsfe.org/donate>

**Please consider becoming a FSFE donor;
your support enables our work!**



Thank you!

Questions?

Legal Information

- Slides licensed under CC-BY-SA-4.0 unless stated otherwise